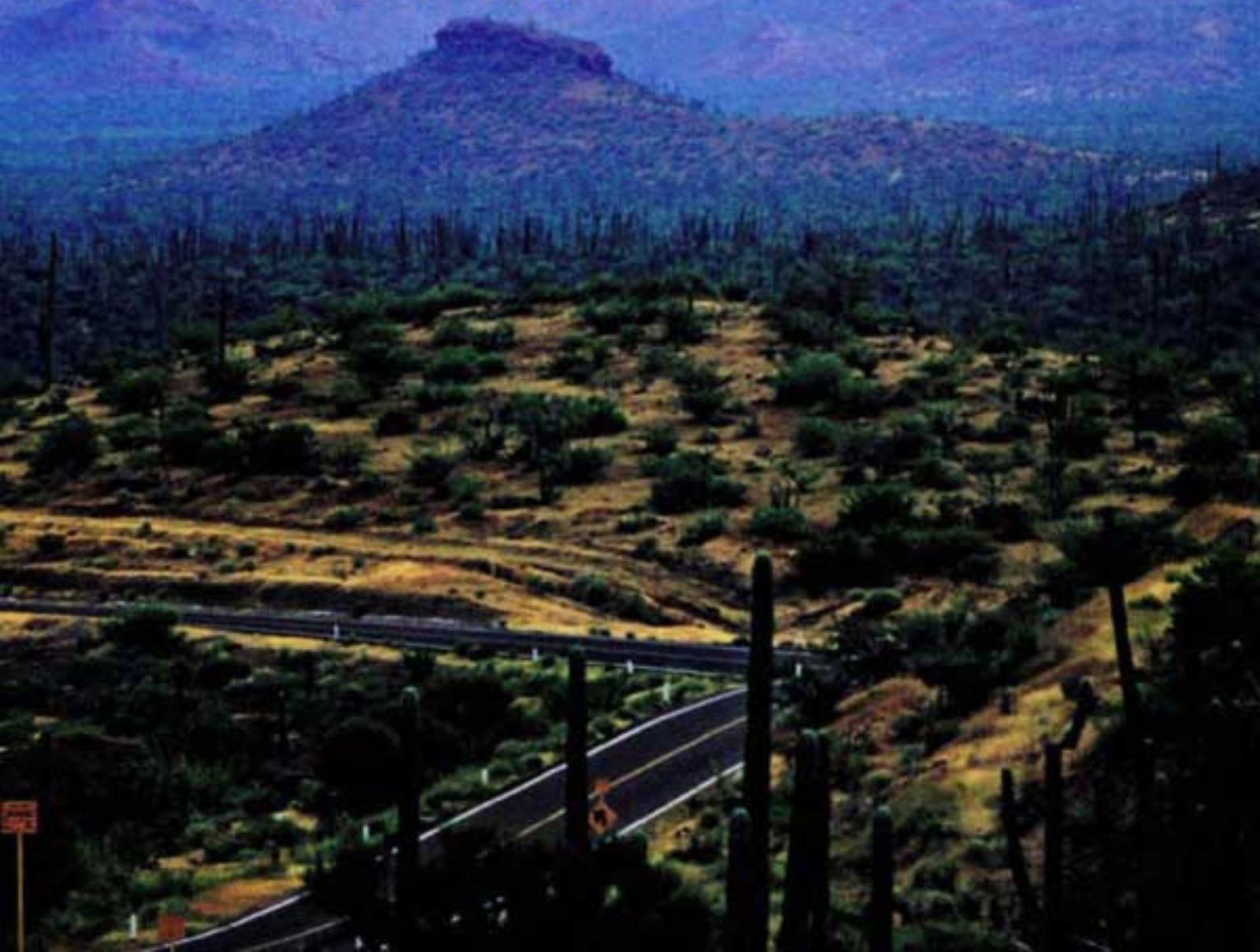


# CABO LIVING

LIFE AT LAND'S END







# CASITA HAHN

*True synergy is realized in this home where interior design is built around the strong bond of the couple that owns it.*

*-by Michael Koehn | photos by Gray Crawford-*

There are many homes in the Los Cabos area that are stunning examples of the work being done by local interior designers, and among the most impressive are the homes in the portfolio of Sandra Espinet and her talented team of designers. Over the past few years, Espinet and her team at Square One have achieved an enviable record of creating homes that are the equal of high-end designs anywhere, and are statements of how far the art of local interior design has come in a short period of time.

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Case in point: the immaculately well-appointed home recently completed for owners John and Leticia Hahn in the private gated community of Villas Del Mar, Palmilla. Called Casita Hahn, this 6,000-square-foot, four-bedroom home sits perched on the hills above the sparkling Sea of Cortez in the Villas Del Mar casita mountain section of Palmilla, a vantage point with few equals in the world.

For the interior design, the Hahns came to Espinet and offered a trip to Los Angeles on their private jet to get the project started. "Leticia and I made the rounds and did some power-shopping at some of my favorite

PHOTO BY PAUL ANASTAS

*“...The most satisfying part of the job for me is delivering the home and seeing the reactions of the owners...”*

custom furniture showrooms in LA,” says Espinet. “When we got back they just gave me free reign and trusted me to do the rest. They have homes in Spain and London, and are only here a few weeks out of the year. But they wanted something special, a private sanctuary that would be waiting for them when they got to Los Cabos.”

With the idea of putting together a home that reflected a variety of touches, Espinet decided to create an interior that uses some Mexican touches, and also an eclectic mix of objects and materials that she thought would ultimately work well together.

“If there is one place that is the

centerpiece of the home, it would have to be the master bedroom,” Espinet says. “We decided to do it in fresh ocean blue and white, and built a custom bookshelf around the headboard to provide a small reading library and showcase for some designer pieces, but the key element is really its exposure to the ocean view. When you wake up in that room you are facing an open vista overlooking the Sea of Cortez, and it is just stunning. The owners are usually in town during the whale season in January, and

**(FAR LEFT AND BELOW)** | *Casita Hahn, located in Villas del Mar, offers John and Leticia Hahn a spectacular Mexican sanctuary. The master bedroom is decked-out in ocean blue and has a small bookshelf around the headboard. The bedroom of John and Leticia's son features appointments such as a framed ornamental charro, which fits with the room's earth-tone scheme.*

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**(ABOVE AND FAR RIGHT)** | *The room of John and Leticia's daughter uses a combination of her favorite color scheme, green and pink. A blend of fabrics and decorative items with this combination were used to personalize the room's design. Tile combinations, elegant furniture and unique artifacts help to create style and character that permeates the entire home.*

with those migrating whales visible from the house they have the best view on the planet."

The Hahns also paid special attention to the rooms that were created for their teenage children. "We were told what the favorite color schemes of the children were," explains Espinet. "For their teenage daughter, for instance, we knew she liked green and pink, and were asked to put together a style and picked the fabrics that incorporated those colors and made it more personal. So we came up with the room and its two iron canopy beds in a style that worked perfectly. We also really like the framed jacket, a boy's

ornamental charro or matador coat, which we used in their son's room."

No service is too demanding, no detail too small when it comes to providing personalized service for one of Espinet's clients. "For the Hahns, one of the key pieces was the chandelier in the dining room, which is made of red heart-shaped globes," Espinet says. "It just seemed very romantic and symbolized the great relationship that John and Leticia have. We picked that and some other accessories in Guadalajara, and had all their dinnerware custom-made in Mexico City with their name on it. If they



ever break a dish all we have to do is call the factory. We also had a set of beach towels embroidered with their monograms, and the stationery for Casita Hahn is custom printed and personalized."

Sandra Espinet and her team of designers and installers have been able to create an enviable reputation for themselves in the Los Cabos area by being very selective about the types of homes they choose to work with.

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"We're not trying to do every home in town, and we don't do a lot of advertising, so most of our work comes from word-of-mouth and referrals, and I prefer it that way. We always feel very lucky, very honored when a client chooses us to do their home. When that happens we feel we have to go the extra measure to live up to their expectations, and we always try to exceed them."

The philosophy seems to have worked, as Espinet and her partners now have a high-end client list, an art gallery, a furniture store and a staff of 12 people, including the first person Sandra hired, Paulina Jimenez-Lopez, who is now her partner.

"We're lucky to be working with the





clients that we have, who come from all parts of the world. We now have several projects in El Dorado and Querencia, two of the most exclusive developments in all of Los Cabos, and the quality of these projects give us the opportunity to be highly creative. My clients can bring in designers from any part of the world, and just because we're a boutique company in a small Mexican town doesn't mean we're not as talented as people in LA or New York."

But in the end, for all the artistic work that Espinet and her team does, using beautiful objects and materials to create some of the most fabulous homes anywhere, that isn't all there is to the job.

"I love what I do," Espinet says, "and the most satisfying part of the job for me is delivering the home and seeing the reactions and expressions of the owners when they see what we've created. That validates all our hard work and their faith in us and is just tremendously satisfying. That's really the big payoff for all the people involved in the project."

*For more information on Casita Hahn and Sandra Espinet Interior Design, please visit: [www.sandraespinet.com](http://www.sandraespinet.com) or call (813) 322-0133 (U.S.) or 011-52-624-144-6610 (Mexico)*

**(FAR LEFT AND ABOVE)** | A splendid view of the Sea of Cortez allows the homeowners to enjoy the whale migration that occurs in January, which is when they are usually in southern Baja. An outdoor patio area further accommodates this plesantry. The dining room contains a key decorative item in the home—a chandelier of heart-shaped globes. This piece symbolizes the strong bond between John and Leticia.